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Stray Leaves

Garnered

Charleston Chamber of Commerce

April, 1873—February, 1897—October, 1899.

St. Andrew's Society, of Charleston

November 30, 1899.

Lucas & Richardson Co., Publishers,
Charleston, S. C.

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Five hundred copies printed from Elzevir Type, on Ruisdael-hand-made paper, for private circulation, in the St. Andrew's Society, Charleston Chamber of Commerce, and elsewhere.



Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

1784-1900.

[From the CHARLESTON DAILY NEWS, 5th April, 1873.]

Roll of Presidents

1784-1900.

—

1784—Gillon, Alexander

1785—Gervais, J. E.

1786—Darrell, Ed.

[Records lost.]

1828—Alexander, D.

1840—Boyce, Kerr

1847—Edmonston, Chas.

1851—Trenholm, G. A.

1853—Gourdin, Henry

1856—Conner, H. W.

1857—Andrews, A. W.

1869—Mure, Robt.

1872—Tupper, S. Y.

1883—Frost, E. H.

1885—Courtenay, Wm. A.

1888—Tupper, S. Y.

1891—McGahan, T. R.

THE sale of the property and good will of the old "Charleston Courier," took place on the 3d April, 1873; among the personal effects sold, were (1), a full file of this Journal, 1801-1872, which was purchased for the Library of Congress; (2), an incomplete file, which, with other volumes on hand, making altogether nearly a full file, has been since the sale deposited in the Library of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce:

AN ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

We chronicle with pleasure the liberality and forethought of one of our merchants who, amid the cares and labors of the present, is ever watchful of the future of his native city. By his generous and unsolicited act, a valuable file of the Charleston Courier has been saved to our citizens for future reference. Beginning early in the present century, and recording the course of such great events as the war of 1812, the nullification controversy, the Florida and Mexican wars, and later public movements, the file contains besides, the thousands of daily occurring events which go to make up the local history of Charleston. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, he courteously transfers the volumes to its keeping, and thus adds to the completeness of a library of local information, which covers three-quarters of a century. The following correspondence explains itself:

CHARLESTON, April 3, 1873.

Samuel Y. Tupper, Esq., President Charleston Chamber of Commerce :

DEAR SIR—I enclose herewith an order for the delivery of seventy-eight volumes of the Charleston Courier, purchased by me at the sale this forenoon, with the intention of retaining them in our midst as a useful record of local history for future reference.

It will afford me much gratification if you will present the volumes to the Chamber of Commerce, and I indulge the hope that they may contribute to the future usefulness of our ancient and honorable association of Charleston merchants.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

WM. A. COURTENAY.

CHARLESTON CHAMBER-OF COMMERCE,
April 3, 1873.

Captain Wm. A. Courtenay :

DEAR SIR—In behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, I gratefully accept your munificent present of seventy-eight volumes of the Charleston Courier, dating from 1804 to 1872. This, in addition to the volumes of the Charleston City Gazette, purchased by the Chamber to-day, and the volumes of the "Courier" already in possession of this Association, gives us beyond doubt a very large and valuable collection of local history, dating back from the commencement of the present century, which could possibly be obtained.

These volumes are now among the treasures of the Chamber, and will add much to that store of useful information which we are laboring to acquire.

With much regard, I am, truly and respectfully yours,

S. Y. TUPPER,
President Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

[From The News and Courier, February 10th, 1897.]

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on 9th instant, the following letter was read, placing in the possession of the Chamber, a large modern roller map of Africa :

NEWRY, S. C., February 4th, 1897.

T. R. McGahan, President :

MY DEAR SIR—When we were school boys learning geography, ever so long ago, our then maps of Africa, depicted it as the "Dark Continent." It presented two limited fringes of civilization and interest; Egypt, and what was once Carthage, at the North; Natal, a lovely earthly paradise, the natural garden of ferns, roses, lilacs, jassamines, geraniums—England Cape Colony on the South; all else for sixty degrees of latitude, one-sixth of the old world's surface from Mogador to Orange River was believed to be, and delineated as desert wastes, and on our old maps, were pictures of elephants, orang-outangs, and ostriches, with figures of Hottentots and Kaffirs displayed at intervals, over the vast area, for illustrations.

The light of civilization has since penetrated every part of these once unknown regions; it is no longer the "Dark Continent"—the great States of Europe, under the potent influence of commerce, have made many wonderful discoveries and developments, and the interior of the continent has so been explored and opened up to civilizing influences. So thoroughly and completely has this marvellous work been done, that it is now even possible to reduce this mass of information to the exactness of cartography.

I have been so impressed with the fund of instructive information, embodied comprehensively on a recently published map of Africa, that I have imported one from London for the use of the Chamber; it measures 65x58 inches mounted on a roller and will well repay examination.

Mr. James S. Murdoch said: Our ex-President, the Hon. William A. Courtenay, having presented to the Chamber a handsome roller map of the Continent of Africa, showing the latest divisions of territory, made in that country by the colonizing spirit of the present age, and impressed by this donation, of the continuing interest felt in this Chamber by its now absent member, I hereby move

That the Chamber accepts this instructive and valuable donation from ex-President Courtenay and orders it to be suitably placed in one of the rooms of the Chamber and that the thanks of the Chamber be extended to the generous donor, which was unanimously adopted.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Chamber held on 10th October, 1899, considerable business was disposed of.

* * * *

Mr. W. S. Hastie proposed the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, the Hon. William A. Courtenay has served the Charleston Chamber of Commerce as President for three years and as a member for nearly half a century;

Be it resolved, That in recognition of his distinguished services to the Chamber he be elected an honorary member of this body.

The resolution was seconded by Major Alex. W. Marshall and Mr. H. H. DeLeon, and unanimously adopted.

* * * *

HENRY TUPPER, Secretary.

At a regular meeting of the Chamber held on 12th December, 1899, the following letter was read by the Secretary:

INNISFALLEN, Newry P. O., S. C.,
October 30, 1899.

To the President and Members of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce :

Dear Friends : I am deeply sensible of the very marked distinction conferred upon me at your meeting on the 11th instant, when, by a unanimous vote, you enrolled me as an "honorary member" of your venerable society.

Forty-five years ago to-day my name was entered for membership on a roll of more than one hundred and fifty gentlemen, then representing the highest commercial thought and activity of the port of Charleston—merchants who were honorably and widely known—whose bills of exchange were recognized credits in the markets of the business world.

Of these prominent citizens only three are my seniors to-day. This tells the familiar story of the changes incident to nearly half a century of time.

I desire to express my high appreciation of the honor so graciously conferred and most sincerely wish that the public spirit and usefulness exhibited in the past career of the Chamber may be continued through all the future years. With highest esteem,

WM. A. COURTENAY, ex-President.

On motion of Mr. A. W. Marshall the letter from ex-President Courtenay was received and ordered to be spread upon the Minutes.

The Chamber then adjourned.

HENRY TUPPER, Secretary.

[1775.—Nell's Register, in this year, refers to the "Charleston Chamber of Commerce," as an established Society. It is probable, that it was founded in 1768, at the period when the "New York Chamber" was organized. It was re-established soon after the evacuation of Charleston by the British Forces in December, 1782.]

The St. Andrew's Society.

1729-1900.

[From THE NEWS AND COURIER.]

A LITERARY TREASURE.

SCOTTISH SONG AND ROMANCE ELEGANTLY ILLUSTRATED.

Roll of Presidents.

1729-1900.

- 1729—Skene, Alex.
1740—Abercrombie, Jas.
1745—Cleland, Jno.
1760—Moultrie, Jno.
1771—Stuart, Jno.
1787—Moultrie, Wm.
1790—Baron, Alex.
1819—Tunno, Adam
1833—King, Mitchell
1835—Robertson, Jas.
1847—McDonall, A.
1859—Mure, Robt.
1871—DeSaussure, W. G.
1886—Allan, Jas.
1891—Johnston, A. S.
1893—Marshall, A. W.

THE HON. W. A. COURTENAY PRESENTS A SUMPTUOUSLY BOUND VOLUME OF BURNS AND SCOTT, FILLED WITH RARE AND COSTLY ILLUSTRATIONS, TO THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.
"FROM SCENES LIKE THESE OLD
SCOTIA'S GRANDEUR SPRINGS."

No Society in South Carolina not purely literary owns a more sumptuous or valuable volume than that presented by ex-Mayor W. A. Courtenay to St. Andrew's Society Thursday night. While the Charleston Library may have, on the same shelf with its second folio edition of Shakespeare, or in the alcoves where Piranesi and Boydell reign supreme, some volume that would bring a larger price among book lovers, it may be doubted if a more beautiful binding than that which enshrines Scott and Burns can be found in the State.

Following is the letter which accompanied the book and which will make it doubly valuable to the St. Andrew's Society:

"INNISFALLEN,"

Newry, Oconee County, S. C.,
November 28, 1899.

To Alexander W. Marshall, President, the Officers and Members of the St. Andrew's Society, of Charleston, S. C.

Gentlemen: In our relatively young country there are few cities two hundred years old. It is certainly a notable event for any of the senior cities of the Republic to point to so early a record as a society in its midst with a continuous and useful career of one hundred and seventy years. Charleston is prominent as such a city. The St. Andrew's Society is

such a foundation. Your Society had its origin about the far distant period of the final withdrawal of the "Lords Proprietors of Carolina," and the change of government from "Province" to "Royal Colony," and just subsequent to the succession of George II to the Throne of England.

Of its distinguished career as a charitable and social association through nearly six generations it stands first in our local annals and still carries its age well; for there is nothing of years in its looks or in its acts; indeed, it is the very youth of old age.

From every point of view, then, whether in its length of years or in its usefulness, the St. Andrew's Society is very worthy of the high esteem in which it is held in our loved city.

Having enjoyed the regard and friendship of very many of its members from my youth to the present time, and specially recalling their continuous and steady support during my eight years of official life, I have had for some years the purpose of making my grateful acknowledgements for these manifestations of consideration and kindness.

Upon the occasion of the Society's observance of the "Centenary of Burns," in 1859, our late scholarly and eloquent townsman, the Hon. W. D. Porter, a guest, proposed this toast, which was received with great acclaim:

"Robert Burns and Walter Scott, the great masters of song and romance; these two names have shed a flood of light and glory that will outlive the lustre of conquest and the splendors of empire."

This thought has suggested to me a memorial volume, embracing some of the writings of these two authors. Having in my library several separate publications of Burns and Scott, in suitable style, I have for some time been collecting the others of the same issue, and only recently have I been successful in securing all of them. The handsome folio volume sent herewith has just been received from the art binders' hands, with its elegant illustrations of Scottish song and romance; with its Stuart and Graeme (Graham) tartans, incorporated in its beautiful binding, it is essentially a Scottish souvenir. The first will recall the troublesome times when Scotchmen

"Never ceased to pray
For the royal race they loved so well,
Tho' exiled far away."

The last will typify Scottish character in the history of a family of antiquity and distinction, dating from a Pictish Chief of the fifth century, whose descendant in the fourteenth century married the niece of Robert II, and quartered or empaled the Royal Arms.

On the coming anniversary I will feel honored if you will receive this memorial volume, and preserve it to posterity, with your other rare and precious possessions.

With the assurance of my highest esteem and my best wishes for the future of your Society, its members, collectively and individually, I remain, gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

WM. A. COURTENAY.

The volume is made up of choice engravings; the letter press is elegantly printed, and the ten separate books were published under the auspices of the "Royal Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts" in Scotland (1855-1878,) and embraces a series of finely engraved pictures illustrative of the writings of Robert Burns and Walter Scott, forming together a memorial of rare and unique interest, and the only one of its kind extant.

The book is folio sized, bound in crimson morocco, back and corners, the outside cover in rich silk of the Stuart tartan while the inside covers are trimmed in silk of very fine quality of the Graham (Graeme) tartan. Within and without it is a true and beautiful souvenir of Scotland.

The illustrations in the order of their arrangement present, first, an early portrait of Queen Victoria, whose health is drunk with all the honors at every St. Andrew's Day festival. Next is a beautiful full-page picture of Burns, followed by an artistic picture of his monument in Edinburgh.

Next in order are the beautifully printed BURNS Poems:

Tam O'Shanter, six illustrations.

Auld Lang Syne, five illustrations.

The Soldier's Return, six illustrations.

Illustrated Songs, six illustrations.

A fine portrait of "The Wizard of the North," followed by a picture of his monument, introduce the second section of the volume. The engraved illustrations from his novels begin with Rob Roy, and are as follows:

Rob Roy, six illustrations.

Bride of Lamamoor, six illustrations.

The Pirate, six illustrations.

Red Gauntlet, six illustrations.

Heart of Midlothian, six illustrations.

Fair Maid of Perth, six illustrations.

[News and Courier, 1st December, 1899.]

Idols of the Scottish Heart.

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THE ELOQUENT AND GRACIOUS MANNER IN WHICH THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY
ACKNOWLEDGED THE BEAUTIFUL GIFT OF EX-MAYOR W. A. COURTENAY.

The following letter from Secretary Gordon to the Hon. William A. Courtenay shows with what warm appreciation the St. Andrew's Society received the literary treasure, which has already been described in The Sunday News, and will be read with interest by the public :

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY,
Charleston, S. C., December 2, 1899.

Hon. William A. Courtenay, Newry, S. C.:

Dear Sir : It is my pleasant duty, and a matter of great gratification to me, to extend to you the resolutions of thanks unanimously adopted by our Society at the one hundred and seventieth anniversary meeting, held November 30, 1899, for the beautiful gift which you have bestowed upon us. They were offered by the Rev. Dr. Robert Wilson, seconded by Mr. William C. Miller, and are as follows :

"RESOLVED, That the thanks of St. Andrew's Society be tendered to Ex-Mayor William A. Courtenay for the beautiful and appropriate gift which he has bestowed on us, and for the kindly interest which prompted it.

"That the costly book, combining in its covers the tartan of the Gaelic Stuarts with that of the lowland Graems, and uniting and illustrating the works of Scotland's two most famous sons, shall always be preserved and cherished among our most valued possessions.

"That in token of our high appreciation of the gift and its donor, the Hon. William A. Courtenay be elected an honorary member of the St. Andrew's Society, and that the Secretary be instructed to send to Mr. Courtenay a copy of these resolutions."

Mr. Miller said : "If it was possible for us to do in fact, what Marion Crawford has done in fiction, if we could select for this occasion two guests of honor from the company of the 'Immortals,' I am sure the choice of the St. Andrew's Society, the unanimous choice, would rest upon Robert Burns and Walter Scott.

"Ex-Mayor Courtenay has understood this, and by the wonderful magic of modern art he has presented these idols of the Scottish heart, in a form so vivid and realistic that they and their creations appeal to us like living beings.

"Ex-Mayor Courtenay has done many handsome things, but he has done nothing more finely conceived or more perfectly executed than this gift, at this time, to this Society; certainly there could be no better offering to its tastes, no surer claim upon its affections, and upon our part there can be no more appreciative acknowledgment than that conveyed in the resolutions proposed by Dr. Wilson. I take great pleasure in seconding them, and inasmuch as I understand that Capt. Courtenay is this evening attending the wedding of his daughter, it would be becoming in us to extend the congratulations of the Society and its best wishes for the bride, and I so move."

As will appear by these resolutions you have been made an honorary member of the St. Andrew's Society, and the following telegram was sent to you the evening they were adopted:

Charleston, S. C., November 30, 1899.

Hon. W. A. Courtenay, Seneca, S. C.:

By resolution of the St. Andrew's Society its congratulations are hereby extended to William A. Courtenay, honorary member, and best wishes for the bride.

ALEX. W. MARSHALL, President.

I send a certificate of membership by same mail. With expressions of my personal esteem I remain, yours very truly,

J. ALEXANDER GORDON, Secretary.

[News and Courier, 10th December, 1899.]



For / Mr James

Librarian

Lenox Library

New York

By



